

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the achievements of Cleveland's Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chapter on the occasion of their sixth annual banquet. For the past 6 years, CAIR has played an instrumental role in bridging the divides between Greater Cleveland's diverse communities.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations is a nation wide nonprofit organization whose mission is to "enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding". The CAIR staff of Ohio has worked tirelessly to ensure that this vision becomes a reality and I thank every member of the organization for their commitment to improving the lives of the citizens of the Cleveland area.

Together with the organizers of CAIR's sixth annual banquet, titled "Let the Conversation Begin," I also stand in recognition of the distinguished speakers; Dr. Christopher Pyle of Mt. Holyoke College and Imam Johari Abdul Malik of the Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center. Dr. Christopher Pyle is currently a Professor of Politics at Mt. Holyoke College and an award winning investigative journalist, scholar, teacher and historian. Imam Johari Abdul Malik is the head of Muslim Chaplains in Higher Education, Government Relations Chair for the Muslim Alliance in North America and President of the Muslim Society of Washington, Inc. I commend their efforts and work in speaking out on important issues and promoting social justice.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Council on American-Islamic Relations for their truly outstanding achievements. The work of CAIR is vital in an ever changing, diversifying and growing community. May their efforts to promote dialogue and create a more inclusive world endure for years to come.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MARJORIE SELLERS ON HER 75TH YEAR OF TEACHING DANCE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Marjorie Sellers has been teaching dance for 75 years with enthusiasm and joy; and

Whereas, this milestone is the result of dedication and love which began in 1924; and

Whereas, an occasion such as this illustrates that hard work and commitment truly represents an honest path to success as evidenced by Marjorie's receipt of several major dance awards including the 1998 Member of the Year for Dance Masters America; and

Whereas, Marjorie's love of dance has fostered the education and careers of thousands of students, some of which have shared their talents as professional dancers under her guidance; and

Whereas, we wish Marjorie many more years of joy in sharing her talents and love with us; therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Marjorie Sellers, for her dedication to teaching dance for 75 years.

CALL UNITED STATES TO ASSIST WITH THE HAITIAN FOOD CRISIS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this Congress a matter of utmost importance—the current civil unrest in Haiti over rising food prices, and the inability of ordinary Haitians to afford to feed themselves and their families. Haiti is an impoverished nation and this current crisis will only push Haiti further into despair.

I am urging our great Nation to provide emergency food aid to Haiti. Food costs have risen on average 40 percent over last year's cost. The cost of staples such as rice, beans, fruit and milk has increased by 50 percent. The majority of Haitians live on approximately \$2 a day. These extraordinary circumstances have caused wide spread rioting throughout Haiti and have even resulted in death. People should not have to die in pursuit of food to feed their families.

As a donor nation, the United States should have answered the World Food Program's (WFP) call for donor support earlier. The WFP appeal is for \$96 million, and only 13 percent of the request has been provided. Our great Nation should be embarrassed for allowing our Caribbean neighbor to suffer this fate. I want to urge this Congress and the President to quickly answer the call of the WFP and provide critical food assistance to Haiti in its time of great need.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR SECURE ELECTIONS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS-JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Emergency Assistance

for Secure Elections Act because I believe it is essential that we ensure every American's basic right to vote and to have that vote counted.

Currently, 15 states still use paperless voting machines which have been proven to be unreliable and vulnerable to hacking. In the past two election cycles, voting machines have malfunctioned and votes have been lost forever. Computer scientists across the country have shown how easy it is to hack these voting systems.

This bill will address these problems by providing the states with financial backing from the Federal Government in order to convert from electronic voting systems to paper ballot voting systems in time for the November 2008 elections. The bill also provides emergency paper ballots if the jurisdiction uses a direct recording electronic voting system which happens to fail.

Today, 9 percent of the U.S. population records their votes electronically. These numbers vary greatly from State to State. Twelve percent of Ohio votes are recorded electronically; 80 percent of Kentucky voters use electronic ballots. Without an adequate confirmation method, mechanical deficiencies could have a drastic impact on close elections. This problem must not go unnoticed, and must be addressed.

Considering the tremendous election discrepancies that we have seen take place in this country in 2000 and 2004, we know that we are still dealing with a flawed system. I believe that the passage of this legislation is paramount to ensuring that people throughout this country are not disenfranchised when they attempt to exercise their right to vote.

The right to vote is a right every citizen of this country deserves. As Members of Congress, we all have an obligation to make sure all of our constituents' votes are counted through the most fair and accurate means available. The right to vote should not be reserved for just some of our constituents, but for all of our constituents. It is for this reason that I introduced the Count Every Vote Act of 2007 which seeks to provide an all-encompassing solution to a broad range of voting irregularities that occurred during the 2004 presidential election. It is for the same reason that I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 5036, the Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2008

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I was not present in the House chamber for votes on April 14, 2008, as well as for part of the day on April 15, 2008, as I was visiting American servicemen and women in Afghanistan. If I were present for votes on these days, I would

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 183, "yea" on rollcall No. 184, "yea" on rollcall No. 185, "nay" on rollcall No. 186, "nay" on rollcall No. 187, and "yea" on rollcall No. 188.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, I was in Tyler attending the funeral of the longest serving county judge in Smith County history: Judge Larry Craig of Tyler, Texas. Had I been present for the vote on the Motion to Recommit to H.R. 5719 regarding sanctuary cities, I would have voted "aye."

WELCOMING SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT LEE TO WASHINGTON

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, this week the President of the Republic of Korea, Lee Myung-Bak, arrives in Washington on his first official visit to the United States since his inauguration on February 25. Indeed, this is President Lee's first major overseas trip, underscoring the importance of the long-standing U.S.-Korea alliance.

The partnership between the United States and the Republic of Korea is multilayered; it has political, diplomatic, strategic, cultural, and economic components. It is historic: the friendship between the U.S. and South Korea is more than 125 years old. It is also familial: over the past century, hundreds of thousands of people emigrated from South Korea to settle in the United States, with the result that today comprises a vibrant and dynamic Korean American community with nearly 2 million constituents.

It has been my privilege to serve as co-founder and cochair of the Congressional Korea Caucus, and in that capacity I have had many opportunities to learn about the Republic of Korea and U.S.-Korea relations. I recently stood side by side with South Korean Ambassador Lee Tae-sik at an event in my district commemorating the Korean war. I have met with numerous Korean war veterans—including many who live in Staten Island and Brooklyn—who served our Nation nobly and who lost comrades on the battlefield or who came home wounded with irreversible scars of that conflict. We will never forget their sacrifice and how their service paved the way for South Korea's enduring freedom today.

Madam Speaker, South Korean soldiers have fought alongside Americans not only in their own homeland but in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq. In fact, South Korea sent the third largest contingent of armed forces to Iraq among all the countries that have participated in that conflict and has pledged over \$460 billion in reconstruction efforts.

The Republic of Korea has often been described as an "economic miracle." A little more than 50 years ago, South Korea was an

impoverished nation perceived as having few prospects for survival, much less potential for affluence or influence. Today, it has the world's 11th largest economy and is the 7th largest trading partner of the United States.

It is no wonder, therefore, that last year negotiators for the United States and the Republic of Korea concluded a free trade agreement that now awaits approval by this Congress and the South Korean National Assembly before it is implemented.

The U.S. International Trade Commission has forecast that the elimination of tariffs on U.S. goods under the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement would increase the Gross Domestic Product, GDP, of the United States by over \$10 billion annually. The agreement will also eliminate regulatory and other non-tariff barriers that have historically restricted access by American farmers, manufacturers, and service providers to the South Korean market.

With growing uncertainty about the health of our economy, it is critically important that we make every effort to spur U.S. economic growth and create new American jobs through securing access to markets in which U.S. farmers and businesses can compete and succeed. The proposed U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement stands to further increase U.S. exports to Korea and will generate new jobs for Americans. This agreement will be a win-win-win situation—a win for workers, a win for businesses, and a win for consumers.

The visit of President Lee Myung-Bak to Washington offers an unprecedented opportunity to discuss the important issues that our two countries face, jointly and separately. It gives us a chance to celebrate a long and productive friendship. It provides us with a reason to welcome an ally to our country and our Nation's Capitol.

Madam Speaker, I hope our colleagues will join me in offering our best wishes to President Lee on the occasion of his first official visit to the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, April 14, 2008 for the entire legislative day and Tuesday, April 15, 2008, for part of the day, I was unable to be in attendance and missed several rollcall votes due to CODEL to Afghanistan and Pakistan that I was leading. I wish to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present: rollcall No. 183—"yes"; rollcall No. 184—"yes"; rollcall No. 185—"yes"; rollcall No. 186—"yes"; rollcall No. 187—"yes"; and rollcall No. 188—"yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES J. MITCHUM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Charles J. Mitchum, for 30 years of outstanding public service at the Social Security Administration.

On March 26, 2008, Mr. Mitchum achieved the milestone of 30 years of exceptional service for the Social Security Administration (SSA). His leadership, care, and hard work over the past 30 years has been responsible for the great service residents of the northeastern Ohio community have come to expect from their local SSA offices. Mr. Mitchum began his career at the SSA offices in Ohio as a Contact Representative in the TeleService Center, connecting with constituents via telephone. He diligently worked his way up, holding positions as a Claims Representative, Operations Supervisor, Supplemental Security Income Program Specialist, Executive Assistant to the Regional Commissioner, Team Leader, Assistant District Manager and District Manager prior to being appointed as Area Director in 2004.

As Area Director for 29 northeastern Ohio Social Security Administration field offices, Mr. Mitchum ensures that the residents of northeast Ohio receive timely and courteous service. He also works closely with congressional offices to improve service to SSA beneficiaries. Mr. Mitchum's unwavering commitment to public service and ability to connect with SSA beneficiaries has been recognized in many Commissioner and Regional Commissioner Citations.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Charles J. Mitchum for 30 years of exceptional public service and for continually striving to make a positive difference in the lives of SSA beneficiaries.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING METEOR SEALING SYSTEMS FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S SAVE ENERGY NOW PROGRAM

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Meteor Sealing Systems has been a top performer in the U.S. Department of Energy's Save Energy Now Program; and Whereas, Meteor Sealing Systems committed itself to creating a world class, energy efficient company; and

Whereas, since 2006, Meteor Sealing Systems has contributed to the conservation of over five metric tons of carbon emission; be it

Resolved, That along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Meteor Sealing Systems on its performance in the U.S. Department of Energy's Save Energy Now Program. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this facility has had in the community and the admirable example they have set.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY MANZANET

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to take this time to remember